Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-21 (Cancelled)

22 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 37 in which the ~~effective~~ amount of greater than 30×10^6 IU of interferon is administered in a single dose.

23 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 37, in which the ~~effective~~ amount of greater than 30×10^6 IU of interferon is administered in a plurality of smaller amounts over a period of time sufficient to elicit a response equivalent to that of a single dose of said effective amount.

24 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 37, in which an ~~effective~~ amount of interferon is administered continuously over a period of time sufficient to elicit a response equivalent to that of a single dose of said ~~effective~~ amount of greater than 30×10^6 IU of interferon.

25 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 37, wherein the interferon comprises a Type I interferon.

26 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 25, wherein the interferon is selected from the group consisting of IFN-α, IFN-β, IFN-ω, consensus IFN, and mixtures thereof.

27 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 26, wherein the IFN-α comprises recombinant IFN-α.

28 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 37, wherein the interferon comprises a Type II interferon.

29 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 28, wherein the Type II interferon comprises IFN-γ.

30 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 37, wherein the dose of interferon is up to about 1000×10^6 IU of interferon.

31 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 37, wherein the dose of interferon is up to about 500×10^6 IU of interferon.

32 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 37, wherein the dose of interferon is from 50×10^6 IU to about 500×10^6 IU of interferon.

33 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 37, wherein the viral infection is selected from the group consisting of rhinovirus, influenza, herpes varicella, herpes zoster, dengue fever, viral encephalitis, haemorrhagic fever, genital herpes, equine morbillivirus, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, hepatitis D, CMV, HIV, HPV, HSV-I and HSV-2.

34 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 33, wherein said viral encephalitis is selected from the group consisting of measles virus encephalitis, Murray Valley encephalitis, Japanese B encephalitis, tick-borne encephalitis and Herpes encephalitis.

35 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 33, wherein said haemorrhagic fever is selected from the group

consisting of Ebola virus, Marburg virus, Lassa fever, and Hanta virus infections.

36 (Currently Amended). A method for treating a viral infection in a human patient, which method comprises administering to the patient having such a viral infection an effective amount of greater than ~~20×10^6 IU of interferon for a 70 kg human~~0.28×10^6 IU of interferon per kg body weight of the patient, via oromucosal contact, said amount being in excess of an amount of the same interferon which induces a pathological response when parenterally administered, said administration via oromucosal~~ormucosal~~ contact being in a manner which does not involve direct action of the interferon on virally infected cells, and wherein ~~the~~ biologically active interferon does not enter the bloodstream, and ~~provided that when the viral infection is a rhinoviral infection, the interferon is not delivered through the mouth in a multiple or continuous dose~~wherein the interferon is administered intranasally.

37 (Currently Amended). A method for treating a viral infection in a human patient, which method comprises administering to the patient having such a viral infection an amount of greater than 30×10^6 IU ~~of an interferon for a 70 kg human~~ via oromucosal contact, said amount being in excess of an amount of the same interferon which induces a pathological response when parenterally administered, said administration via oromucosal contact being in a manner which does not involve direct action of the interferon on virally infected

cells, and ~~where~~wherein ~~the~~ biologically active interferon does not enter the bloodstream.

38 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 36 in which the effective amount of interferon is administered in a single unit dose, which is not a plurality of smaller amounts administered over a period of time sufficient to elicit a response equivalent to that of a single unit dose, and is not administered continuously over a period of time sufficient to elicit a response equivalent to that of a single unit dose.

39 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 36, in which the effective amount of interferon is delivered ~~intranasally,~~ in a plurality of smaller amounts over a period of time sufficient to elicit a response equivalent to that of a single unit dose.

40 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 36, in which an effective amount of interferon is delivered ~~intranasally~~ continuously over a period of time sufficient to elicit a response equivalent to that of a single unit dose.

41 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 36, wherein the interferon comprises a Type I interferon.

42 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 41, wherein the interferon is selected from the group consisting of IFN-α, IFN-β, IFN-ω, consensus IFN, and mixtures thereof.

43 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 42, wherein the IFN-α comprises recombinant IFN-α.

44 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 36, wherein the interferon comprises a Type II interferon.

45 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 44, wherein the Type II interferon comprises IFN-γ.

46 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 36, wherein the amount of interferon is up to 1000×10^6 IU of interferon.

47 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 36, wherein the amount of interferon is up to 500×10^6 IU of interferon.

48 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 36, wherein the amount of interferon is from 50×10^6 IU to 500×10^6 IU of interferon.

49 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 36, wherein the viral infection is selected from the group consisting of rhinovirus, influenza, herpes varicella, herpes zoster, dengue fever, viral encephalitis, haemorrhagic fever, genital herpes, equine morbillivirus, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, hepatitis D, CMV, HIV, HPV, HSV-I and HSV-2.

50 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 49, wherein said viral encephalitis is selected from the group consisting of measles virus encephalitis, Murray Valley encephalitis, Japanese B encephalitis, tick-borne encephalitis and Herpes encephalitis.

51 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 49, wherein said haemorrhagic fever is selected from the group

consisting of Ebola virus, Marburg virus, Lassa fever, and Hanta virus infections.

52 (Currently Amended). A method for treating a viral infection other than a rhinoviral infection in a human patient, which method comprises administering to the patient having such a viral infection an effective amount of greater than ~~20~~ 0.28 × 10^6 IU of interferon ~~for a 70~~per kg ~~human~~ body weight of the patient, via oromucosal contact, said amount being in excess of an amount of the same interferon which induces a pathological response when parenterally administered, said administration via oromucosal contact being in a manner which does not involve direct action of the interferon on virally infected cells, and wherein ~~the~~ biologically active interferon does not enter the bloodstream.

53 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 52, wherein the viral infection is selected from the group consisting of influenza, herpes varicella, herpes zoster, dengue fever, viral encephalitis, haemorrhagic fever, genital herpes, equine morbillivirus, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, hepatitis D, CMV, HIV, HPV, HSV-I and HSV-2.

54 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 52, wherein said viral encephalitis is selected from the group consisting of measles virus encephalitis, Murray Valley encephalitis, Japanese B encephalitis, tick-borne encephalitis and Herpes encephalitis.

55 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 52, wherein said haemorrhagic fever is selected from the group

consisting of Ebola virus, Marburg virus, Lassa fever, and Hanta virus infections.

56 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 52, wherein the interferon comprises a Type I interferon.

57 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 52, wherein the interferon comprises a Type II interferon.

58 (New) A method for treating a viral infection in a human patient, which method comprises administering to the patient having such a viral infection an effective amount of greater than 0.28×10^6 IU of interferon per kg body weight of the patient, via oromucosal contact, said amount being in excess of an amount of the same interferon which induces a pathological response when parenterally administered, said administration via oromucosal contact being in a manner which does not involve direct action of the interferon on virally infected cells, and wherein biologically active interferon does not enter the bloodstream, and wherein the effective amount of interferon is administered in a single unit dose, which is not a plurality of smaller amounts administered over a period of time sufficient to elicit a response equivalent to that of a single unit dose, and is not administered continuously over a period of time sufficient to elicit a response equivalent to that of a single unit dose.